

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled Claims 5, 7, 8 and 15 and amended Claims 1 and 12. As a result, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9 and 12-14 and 16-17 are currently pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In response, Applicant has canceled Claims 7 and 8.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klein. In response, the Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 12 to include a variation of the limitation "the repositionable island being removably connected to the front surface of the main unit to form at least two separate play areas" as recited in dependent Claim 5. As a result, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C 102(b) rejections are now moot.

The Examiner has rejected the limitations of dependent Claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Klein. In response, Applicant has canceled Claims 5 and 15. With respect to Claim 15, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection is now moot.

With respect to Claim 5, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 12 to include the limitations that were set forth in Claim 5. As such, the Examiner's arguments using the Klein reference will be addressed with respect to newly amended independent Claims 1 and 12.

The Klein reference illustrates a toy kitchen with various interchangeable modules. The modules include kitchen appliances to simulate a real kitchen. The kitchen appliances are accessible from the front surface of the module. The sides of the modules are joined together by

a hook and loop connection. The Klein reference also illustrates an arc shaped module or a counter. The arc shaped module may be attached to the sides of the kitchen modules to expand the countertop and to provide round corners for the toy kitchen.

The Klein reference does not illustrate or suggest a module extending outwardly from the front surface of the toy kitchen as recited in newly amended independent Claims 1 and 12 of the present invention. The Examiner has indicated that it would have been obvious to include a module extending from the front surface of Klein's toy kitchen. However, each module of the Klein patent includes a door on the front surface of the module. Thus, it would not be desirable to affix the arc shaped module to the front of the kitchen modules because a child would not be able to open or close the doors of the appliances on the toy kitchen modules as intended by the Klein reference.

In addition, the repositionable island as recited in the present invention defines distinct play areas for the toy kitchen. The island is designed to enhance a child's role play experience. Since the island extends outwards from the front of the toy kitchen, children may play independently in one of the defined play areas in the front of the kitchen or children may play in concert by interacting over the island.

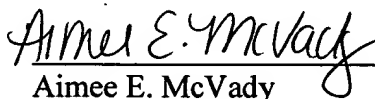
Although the Klein reference illustrates arranging the modules at an angle with respect to each other, as illustrated in Figure 9, and illustrates arranging the modules behind each other, as illustrated in Figure 8, the Klein reference does not illustrate arranging the modules such that

children have a distinct individual play area that is divided by a common area where children can play in concert.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 12, as amended, are patentable over the Klein patent. Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 6, 9-11 and 13, 14, 16 and 17, which are dependent on Claims 1 and 12, respectively, are also patentable over the Klein patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,


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Version with markings to show changes made to the Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A toy kitchen comprising:

a main unit; and

a repositionable island removably coupled to a front surface of the main unit [in one of at least two positions] to form at least two separate play areas.

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12. (Twice Amended) A repositionable toy kitchen comprising:

a first unit extending along a first substantially vertical longitudinal plane; and

at least one removable and repositionable second unit extending along a second substantially vertical longitudinal plane and positionable adjacent to the first unit in a first position, [in which the first longitudinal plane is angled with respect to the second longitudinal plane] wherein the repositionable second unit is removably connected to a front surface of the first unit to form at least two separate play areas, and a second position, in which the first and (second longitudinal planes are substantially coplanar.